

REMARKS

In a final Office Action dated March 22, 2004, claim 39 was rejected, and claims 1-17 were allowed. Claims 18-38 are withdrawn from consideration.

Applicant sincerely appreciates the indicated allowability of claims 1-17.

Claim 39 is amended herein. Support for the amendment to claim 39 may be found in claims 1 and 18 as filed originally, as well as in the drawings. Claim 39 is submitted to be a linking claim within the meaning of 37 C.F.R. § 1.146 and M.P.E.P. §§ 809 and 809.03(A), and incorporates substantially each of the species identified in the restriction mailed July 11, 2003. Furthermore, claim 39 recites the subject matter of claim 1, which has been indicated to be allowable, as well as further distinguishing elements. Claim 39 is thus submitted to be allowable as well. Since claim 39 is an allowable linking claim, it is submitted that claims 18-38, withdrawn from consideration, ought to be rejoined and allowable as well. This amendment is thus believed to place the application in condition for allowance and entry is requested respectfully. If any further details need to be addressed, the courtesy of a telephone call to the undersigned representative of the Applicants is also requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, further reconsideration and allowance of the application and all of its claims are earnestly requested.

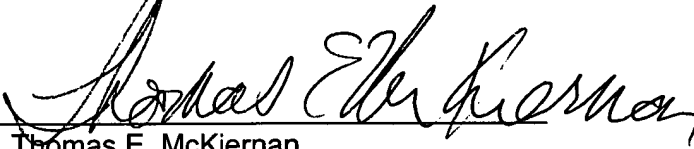
Claim 39 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rigdon et al. This rejection, as it applies to newly amended claim 39, is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 39 recites the subject matter of claim 1, which has been indicated to be allowable, in addition to further distinguishing elements, as discussed above. Claim 39 is thus submitted to be allowable as well. Since claim 39, a linking claim, is now allowable, claims 18-38 should be rejoined, and allowable therewith. Applicant submits that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are earnestly requested.

Appln. No.: 10/089,232
Amendment after final dated June 23, 2004
Reply to final Office Action of March 22, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas E. McKiernan", written over a horizontal line.

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